

### REMARKS

Claims 85-93 and new claims 147-161 are presented for consideration by the Examiner. The claims have been amended in response to the rejections and remarks in the recent Office Action mailed October 4, 2005 and every ground of rejection has been addressed. No new matter has been added by virtue of applicants' amendments.

1. REJECTIONS OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 AND 103 ARE TREATED

According to the recent Office Action, claims 85, 86, 88, 89, 90 and 92 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. patent no. 6,310,609 granted to Morgenthaler. Claims 85, 86, and 88 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. patent no. 6,797,902 granted to Farage et al. Claims 87 and 91 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morgenthaler in view U.S. patent no. 6,510,995, granted to Muthu et al.

As amended, independent claim 85 of the present application requires "a base member positioned over the first plurality of individual light sources, the base member having a first portion configured and dimensioned for removably receiving the object." Applicants submit that this feature is not taught or suggested by the prior art relied upon by the Patent Examiner to reject the

claims. By means of example, and not limitation, applicants' Figures 16 through 18, and related discussion, demonstrate how this feature may be used. In this example, the object is a label 212 which is inserted into the base member 214 (see Figure 18A). This allows the user to easily change or customize the label based upon what the switch controls. This feature is not found in the prior art relied upon by the Patent Examiner.

Morgenthaler teaches that two separate light sources may be provided for each key on a keypad and that the lights may be selectively illuminated. Morgenthaler does not teach that the key is able to removably receive objects for backlighting. The light sources are only used to illuminate the key. Likewise, Farage et al. teaches the use of a first light to illuminate substantially the entirety of a key and a second light to illuminate less than the first light. Again, Farage et al. does not teach the ability to removably receive an object for backlighting. Indeed, both Morgenthaler and Farage et al. only teach illuminating the key(s) themselves. In Morgenthaler, the keys being illuminated are shown as part of a keypad on a cell phone. Because keypads for cell phones are in a standard configuration, it is undesirable to change the labeling on these keys. Farage et al. teaches illuminating the keys of a keyboard for a computer. Again, because computer keyboards come in a standard configuration, it would be undesirable to change the labeling on the computer keyboard. Muthu et al.

further does not teach backlighting an object. Muthu et al. teaches lighting a retail display stand.

Dependent claims 86-93 and 147-158 depend from claim 85 or a claim depending from claim 85, and are therefore believed to be allowable for the reasons given in support of claim 85. Applicant further requests separate consideration by the Office of these dependent claims on their own merits, since some or all of said dependent claims are believed to be allowable regardless of whether independent claim 85 is allowable. Some of these dependent claims are addressed below.

Dependent claim 147 recites a lens for covering the object. Dependent claim 148 recites that the lens and the base member fit together using a "snap fit." Dependent claim 149 recites that the lens magnifies the object. Claim 152 recites a means for attaching the base member to a switch matrix. Claim 153 recited that the object is a label. Claim 155 recites that the base member includes a hollow passage and a translucent and transparent portion. Claim 156 recites a means for diffusing the light. Claim 157 recites that the base member is movable to a depressed position to thereby activate a switch. Applicants submit that none of these features recited above are taught by the prior art of record.

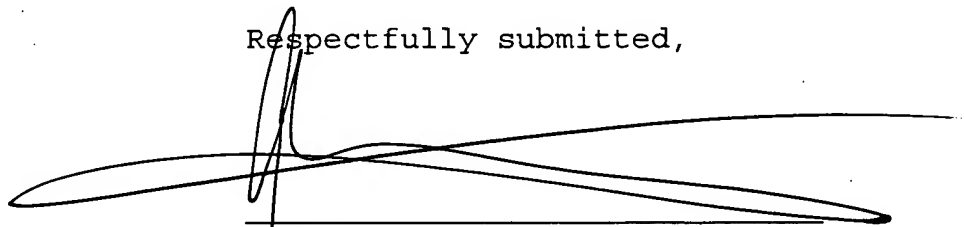
2. CONCLUSION AND AUTHORIZATION OF DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

In view of the foregoing, applicants believe that the pending claims are all allowable and the same is respectfully requested. If any impediment to the allowance of these claims remains after entry of this Amendment, and such impediment could be alleviated during a telephone interview, the Examiner is invited to initiate the same.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee or to credit any overpayment in connection with this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 50-0836.

DATED this 4 day of April, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Grant R. Clayton', written over a horizontal line.

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